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I.—*Ornithological Notes made in the Straits Settlements and in the Western States of the Malay Peninsula.* By Lieut. H. R. KELHAM, 74th Highlanders.

[Continued from 'The Ibis' for 1881, p. 532.]

GALLUS FERRUGINEUS, Gm. The Jungle-fowl.

The common Jungle-fowl, the "Ayam-utan" of the Malays, is exceedingly plentiful throughout the native states; but I never met with it on the island of Singapore, and it is not common, if, indeed, found at all on Pulo Penang.

Whether or not the Malay species, Temminck's *G. bankiva*, is really distinct from the Indian, it is hard to say; but if it is distinct, both kinds are certainly found in the Malay countries; for while stationed in Perak I shot, out of the same tract of jungle, unmistakable specimens of *G. ferrugineus*, with the rich golden hackles and white ear-patches, also birds of far darker, in one case almost black, plumage. But the wild Jungle-fowl interbreed so much with domestic roosters from the villages, that I cannot help thinking these dark-coloured birds to be the results of such intercourse particularly as many of them, though very unlike the typical

G. ferrugineus, are not like one another, varying much in the intensity of their colouring.

In Perak I found Jungle-fowl breeding from March to July; and the young, when three or four weeks old, were capital eating—far better than the full-grown bird, which has but little more game flavour than the ordinary domestic fowl.

At the first glimmer of daylight, and again towards evening, the Jungle-cocks may be heard in all directions, crowing loudly, and by very careful stalking may occasionally be got at; but I found far the most successful plan was, either early in the morning, or else about sunset, to sneak quietly along the edges of clearings and patches of cultivation, which at those times the Jungle-fowl frequent in search of food; and in this way, by dodging from bush to bush, I frequently rendered a good account of them. But it required the most careful stalking, as on the slightest alarm the birds ran into the thick jungle, where it was almost useless to follow them. Once or twice I shot them in thick cover by letting my dog hunt them up into the trees, which they did not leave till I was within range.

In Province Wellesley the Malays decoy Jungle-fowl by imitating the crowing and flapping of the wings of the cock, when the birds coming to accept the supposed challenge are shot.

The following are descriptions of birds I shot near Kwala Kangsar, Perak:—The cock, though in magnificent plumage, wanted the white ear-coverts; he was about 22 inches in length, tarsus 3 inches; irides orange; head and neck covered with long golden hackles, darkest on the head and nape; the back and long upper tail-coverts rich chestnut, the latter of a golden hue; primary and secondary wing-coverts black, glossed with metallic shades of purple and green; lesser coverts rich maroon; wing-quills dusky, with rufous margins to the outer webs; tail black, glossed with green; underparts dull black, with some of the feathers edged with brown.

The hen is of much plainer plumage. Upper parts brown, minutely freckled with a paler and more rufous shade of the

same colour, with some of the feathers pale-shafted ; the hackles are black, short, and edged with yellow ; underparts pale rufous-brown ; the feathers of the breast pale-shafted ; length of bird about 15 inches.

GALLUS VARIUS, Shaw.

In the Botanical Gardens at Singapore there was a specimen of this handsome Jungle-fowl ; but probably it had been imported.

EXCALFACTORIA CHINENSIS (Linn.). The Blue-breasted Quail.

This tiny but most beautifully marked Quail swarms throughout the Malay States, being found in almost every dry paddy-field or tract of scrub and grass-covered ground. It is difficult to flush, not rising until almost trodden on ; then, after skimming over the grass with a Partridge-like flight for fifty or sixty yards, it drops like a stone, and is hard to put up again, even with a dog.

The sudden way in which they drop to the ground frequently deceives the inexperienced sportsman, who, thinking he has made a successful shot, hurries to where the bird apparently fell, and makes a long and fruitless search, while the object of his pursuit is running as hard as it can lay legs to the ground to a distant part of the field.

They are very good eating, but so small as to be scarcely worth a charge of shot ; and after being a few weeks in the country, and ceasing to look on them as a novelty, one seldom fires at them, confining one's attention to larger game, in the shape of Snipe, Plover, &c.

The sexes are very unlike in plumage, the male being by far the more handsome and brightly-coloured bird. One shot near Saiyong, Perak, on 24th April, was $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches long ; irides deep crimson ; legs bright orange ; beak black ; head and upper parts brown ; feathers of the back pale-shafted, and banded, mostly on one web only, with black ; wings pale brown, some of the coverts edged with rufous and bluish grey ; forehead, cheeks, sides of neck, and breast bright bluish grey ; moustache-streak and broad crescentic mark

on throat pure white, bordered by a deep black line; chin and throat black; abdomen ruddy chestnut. The female is not nearly so boldly marked: one shot at Singapore on 7th November measured $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; legs orange; irides red-brown; supercilium, throat, and forehead rufous brown; chin dull white; breast dingy brown, with narrow black cross bars; feathers of flanks much lengthened; the white and black markings of the throat, also the chestnut abdomen of the male, were wanting.

ROLLULUS ROUROUL (Scop.). The Crested Partridge.

Though not rare, this bird is seldom seen, being very shy, and on the approach of danger trusting to its legs rather than taking flight. All my specimens were snared in the neighbourhood of Kwala Kangsar.

Captain Wardlaw-Ramsay tells me he found it plentiful round Mount Ophir; and I saw several skins in Malaccan collections. These birds thrive well in confinement, but are not easily tamed: some which were in my aviary for several months were always wild, hiding directly any one appeared in sight; but early in the morning, when all was quiet, and they thought they were not observed, they used to come out of their hiding-places and feed on rice and Indian corn.

The male is very handsome, with a crest of red plumes on its head; the female is without the crest, and of much duller colours than her mate.

RHIZOTHERA LONGIROSTRIS, Temm.

While stationed at Kwala Kangsar, Perak, a Malay brought me one of these curious Pheasant-like birds, which he had snared, and I put it in my aviary; but it only lived a few weeks.

I also saw a couple in confinement, at Singapore, in Mr. Whampoa's garden; but he could not tell me any thing about them, not even where they came from. They were about the size of a domestic hen, wings and tail short, legs whitish, tarsus spurred, irides dark brown, beak black; sharp, and very much curved; plumage rich brown, mottled and spotted with a darker shade of the same colour; at the base of the

neck and on each side of it was a greyish-blue patch ; feet and claws very large and powerful.

To a casual observer these birds look like the hens of some species of Pheasant. They are known among the Malays by the name of "Burang salantung."

TURNIX PLUMBIPES, Temm. The Black-breasted Bustard-Quail.

For some time I put down this Bustard-Quail as Sykes's *T. taigoor* ; but apparently it is distinct from that species.

It is very plentiful throughout Western Malayana ; but I rarely found more than two or three together ; in fact, I generally flushed them singly, and, as a rule, on ground covered with scrub or long grass. Like all the Quails, they are very difficult to put up, trusting to their legs more than their wings.

In my note-book I have written as follows :—

"Kwala Kangsar, Perak, 8th June, 1877. Today I shot a female specimen of the Malayan *Turnix*, almost identical with *T. taigoor* of Sykes : my bird measures $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches ; irides yellowish white ; bill and legs bluish lead-colour ; it has but three toes ; throat and upper part of breast black ; underparts and the wings rufous brown, barred on the wings and lower part of the breast with black ; head and neck freckled with black and white spots ; claws white ; weight slightly over 2 oz.

"When walking through the jungle I often flush these Quail. Small open patches appear to be their favourite resorts ; and I very seldom find them in the paddy-fields, where the little *Excalfactoria chinensis* swarms."

Among the "lalang" grass round the barracks at Singapore, Bustard-Quail were very common, breeding during May, June, and July.

On 1st July I found a brood of five young ones running about with their mother among the flower-beds in the Botanical Gardens, and on 24th August disturbed a family of them in the long grass close outside our mess ; they could not fly more than a few yards at a time, so were easily caught.

One I carefully examined, though fully feathered, could

scarcely fly at all, but ran at a great pace, and showed much cleverness in hiding itself by crouching flat on the ground, taking advantage of any hole or depression ; its irides were straw-colour, like those of the adult.

I used to see the Malays in Perak employ these birds as decoys to catch others of their kind, much in the same way as Dr. Jerdon in his ' Birds of India ' describes it as being done by the natives in the south of India.

The decoy, usually a hen bird, is enclosed in a small wicker cage, having an arrangement by which, on the breaking of a thread which is stretched across the bars, a net springs over the front of the cage. This contrivance is placed in a likely spot in the jungle ; and the wild Quails, attracted by the " calling " of the decoy, try to get at it, and, fluttering against the outside of the bars, break the thread, set free the spring-net, and are caught.

Dr. Jerdon says that in India all the birds thus caught are hens, as are the decoys : unfortunately I neglected to see if such was the case in Perak ; but if so, it conclusively proves that it is not sexual desire, but their pugnacity, that is so fatal to them. The female is the larger and by far the more handsome bird of the two—the male wanting the deep-black throat and upper breast, and being altogether less boldly marked.

GLAREOLA ORIENTALIS, Blyth.

The Swallow-Plover is very common during the seasons of migration, arriving at the same time as the Golden Plover, *Charadrius fulvus* ; but I never met with it at other times of the year. During March, and again in September and October, great numbers pass over the island of Singapore ; but they are then so tame that it is poor sport shooting them : often they squatted so closely that I walked within a few yards before they would rise ; then they frequently settled again after flying a short distance. Perhaps this extraordinary tameness was owing to the fatigue occasioned by migrating. I noticed that they were generally found in large flocks on cultivated ground, and were particularly fond of ploughed land, more especially if it was on a hillside.

The vernal migration takes place early in the year ; in my note-book is the following passage :—

“Kwala Kangsar, Perak, 22nd February, 1877. This afternoon I paddled down the Perak river in a canoe to Campong Saiyong, accompanied by H——, on our way getting a Golden Plover out of a pair which were sitting on a sand-bank in the middle of the river.

“A little further on, on another sand-bank, we saw an enormous flock of birds, which every now and then rose with shrill cries, and after flying a few yards settled again, squatting flat on the sand. Not knowing what they were, we stalked them, and bagged six, losing three more, which fell into the river and were swept away.

“At first I took them to be the European Pratincole, but now see, as stated by Jerdon, that they differ from that species in having the tail less forked ; they must be migrating, as on no former occasion have I seen any here ; and their being in such numbers, and so easily approached, makes it still more probable that they are on passage. When fired at the big flock broke up into small parties of from ten to twenty ; but after a short time they all returned to the sand-banks. While on the wing, flying close over the surface of the water, the most noticeable points about them were their Swallow-like wings and white rumps.”

In plumage the sexes are alike ; but immature birds which I shot in Singapore during September were not nearly so decidedly marked as the adults, moreover they were much mottled and freckled with brown. The pectinated middle claw, large eye, wide gape, their flight, and the way they crouch flat on the ground, all seem to point to a relationship between these birds and the Caprimulgidæ.

SQUATAROLA HELVETICA (Gm.). The Grey Plover.

Identical with the European species. The Grey Plover is common among the islands and along the coasts of the peninsula from October to March, but appears to breed further north. On 13th April 1879, I had over a dozen brought to me, which had just been caught on the coast a few miles

south of Malacca ; and of these one showed considerable signs of the breeding-plumage, its breast being much blotched with black. During October, November, and December some may always be shot on the shores of Pulo Oobin, Pulo Nongsa, and the other rock-girt islands near Singapore ; a female which I shot off Pulo Oobin was sitting on an isolated rock in company with a large flock of Ringed Plover (*Ægialitis Geoffroyi*).

CHARADRIUS FULVUS, Gm.

The Eastern Golden Plover is very plentiful during the north-east monsoon, but goes north in April to breed, returning again to the south of the peninsula towards the end of September. In Perak, during January and February, I found them in large flocks on the edges of all the jheels, particularly those in the neighbourhood of Kota Lama, Saiyong, and Sengan ; but they got scarcer in March. The 8th April was the latest date on which I shot one, which, in company with another, was sitting on a sand-bank in the middle of the Perak river ; it had almost fully assumed the black breast of the breeding-season. In 1879, while stationed at Singapore, as late as 13th April a Malay fisherman brought me a large cage full of Terns and shore-birds, which he had netted on the sands near the mouth of the Moar river ; and among them were several Golden Plovers, all in various stages of the breeding-plumage ; so probably they nest somewhere towards the north of the peninsula, though in Singapore and the south they are most certainly migratory.

In Singapore, though no very large bags were to be made, they often, during October, afforded me a capital afternoon's sport. In the neighbourhood of Tanglin the best places for them were the Chinamen's gardens and the cultivated hills near Cluny ; but there was also good ground near Changie, at Galang, and on the Trafalgar estate.

When shot at some distance inland they are very good eating ; but a coast diet spoils them for the table : some I shot on the sea-shore at Panaga, in Province Wellesley, were quite uneatable, having a strong, fishy, decayed-seaweed kind of flavour.

In my notes are many references to this species, among them the following:—

“Tanglin, Singapore, 2nd October. Early this morning three Golden Plovers were running about our lawn-tennis ground, close to the public road; they were very tame, allowing me within a few yards before they rose, and even then flying but a short distance. In the evening, at dusk, while several of us were playing tennis, laughing and talking, a Golden Plover circled round two or three times, then settled on the ground in our midst. I never saw one so tame, but believe it was migrating, and so tired as to be regardless of danger and glad to rest anywhere.”

ÆGIALITIS GEOFFROYI (Wagl.). The Sand-Plover.

Found in great numbers on the coasts of the peninsula during the north-east monsoon. Towards the end of November 1879 I found enormous flocks of them at low tide on the shore of Pulo Battam; they were then all in the brown-and-white winter plumage. One, which I shot out of a flock of *Charadriinæ* which rose from a rock in mid channel between Pulo Oobin and Singapore, was $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length; irides dark brown; beak at front $1\frac{9}{12}$ inch; legs black; tarsus $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch; upper parts and streak below the eye dull brown; forehead, tip of tail, and the underparts white: date 10th January.

The summer plumage is very different from that of the winter-time. In my note-book I find the following notes concerning two specimens obtained alive from the Malaccan coast on 13th April 1879:—

“The two Sand-Plovers which were brought to me today differ much in appearance; both are *Æ. geoffroyi*. My identification has been confirmed by Mr. Davison; so there can be no mistake; but they are certainly very unlike one another, one being in the ordinary brown-and-white winter plumage, the other, a female, in the rufous colours of the breeding-season. This last, Mr. Davison tells me, is the only specimen in summer plumage that he has ever seen in these parts. The following is an accurate description of it:—

“Length $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, bill at front 1, tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$; bill black;

irides dark brown; forehead, lores, ear-coverts, and streak below eyes black; spot on each side of forehead, the chin, throat, abdomen, margins of inner webs of the primaries, white; upper parts hair-brown, tinged with rufous, particularly on the head and neck; a broad band round the upper part of the breast bright rufous."

ÆGIALITIS MONGOLICA (Pall.).

Frequents the coasts during the north-east monsoon. On 23rd November I shot one out of a flock on the shores of Pulo Battam, near Singapore. Length barely 8 inches, tarsus $1\frac{4}{10}$, beak at front $\frac{3}{4}$; upper parts dull brown, tinged, particularly on the wing-coverts, with rufous; the forehead and underparts white, with a rufous tinge, deepest on the breast. It is rather like, but smaller than, *Æ. geoffroyi*.

ÆGIALITIS DUBIA (Scop.).

On 23rd November, 1879, I shot a specimen of this small Ringed Plover out of a party of five on the sandy strand bordering Pulo Battam. At first I thought it was *Æ. minuta*; but that bird has the basal half of the beak yellow, while in this the whole of it is black.

I shot another during November on the parade-ground at Tanglin, Singapore.

LOBIVANELLUS ATRONUCHALIS, Blyth.

The Red-wattled Lapwing is common in Perak, and Larut, frequenting the edges of jheels and the swampy valleys in the jungle. I never found a nest; but they probably breed in the peninsula, as I saw a pair near Kwala Kangsar, Perak, as late as the first week in May. Earlier in the year I shot several in the neighbourhood of that place, also some few at a jheel near Sengan, lower down the river.

In my notes is the following passage:—

"Singapore, 21st November, 1879. This afternoon I shot a few Snipe and Plover in the swampy valley behind our barracks, also put up two Red-wattled Lapwing, one of which I shot. It is exactly like those I used so often to get in Perak; but here it is a rather rare bird, and one seldom hears its plaintive cry, so well rendered in Dr. Jerdon's work by

the words 'Did he do it! Pity to do it.' A male, shot at Saiyong, Perak, on 13th April, measured about $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, tarsus 3; beak red, black at its tip; orbits and wattles red; irides red-brown; legs yellow; head, neck, and breast deep black; ear-coverts, streak down each side of neck, band across upper part of the back, abdomen, and the tail white, the last broadly barred with black; upper parts and wing-coverts dull brown, glossed with metallic shades of purple and green; greater coverts broadly tipped with white; wing-quills black; the shoulder furnished with a short blunt spur; hind toe very minute. Its stomach contained vegetable matter and particles of quartz."

STREPSILAS INTERPRES, Linn. The Turnstone.

About the middle of April 1877 a Malay brought me a cage of eighteen or twenty Turnstones, which he said he had netted on the sands near the mouth of the Moar river; they were in most beautiful plumage.

I saw large flocks of Turnstones scuttling about at the water's edge on the beach at Pulo Nongsa during September, and shot one or two of them.

GALLINAGO STENURA (Temm.). The Pintail Snipe.

Although the European Snipe (*G. scolopacina*) is occasionally found, the one commonly met with in the Malay States is the Pintail Snipe (*G. stenura*), dozens (I think I may almost say hundreds) of it being obtained for one of the former. But in general appearance the two species are so alike that any body not a naturalist, nor of a very inquiring nature, may easily shoot throughout a whole season in that land of the longbills, Province Wellesley, without knowing that his spoil differs in the least from the well-known Snipe of the British Isles.

But if, while resting from his labours after a few hours' plodding through mud and water under the blazing sun of those parts, he will turn out his well-filled bag and carefully examine its contents, it will be found that, with hardly an exception, the birds are "Pintails."

The tail, instead of being of soft rounded feathers, as is

the case with the English bird, has eight rigid pin-like feathers on either side, though I have seen specimens in which these stiff feathers were but seven in number. This is the most marked characteristic of the species, and at once determines the identity of a specimen; but the Pintail also has the axillary plumes more richly barred than its European brother—though, unless one had some of each kind laid side by side for comparison, the differences between the two species would probably pass unobserved.

It is only at a certain season that Snipe abound in the Malay peninsula: from May to July, both months inclusive, it is hard to find a single bird; but about the middle or end of August they begin to arrive in Province Wellesley and Pulo Penang, extending to Malacca and the extreme south of the peninsula, including Singapore, ten days or a fortnight later, though they are not found in great numbers in any of these places until later in September.

However, it is impossible to lay down a hard and fast rule, as the migration is much influenced by the weather; but it may safely be said that the great body of the Snipe do not come south until the commencement of the wet and stormy period which proclaims the breaking-up of the south-west monsoon.

Towards the end of April they return north to their breeding-grounds; and I doubt if any remain to nest in the peninsula, though in Perak I have shot a few stragglers as late as the second week in May.

With reference to the habits of the Pintail, my experience is that, as a rule, they are not found in any number in the paddy-fields—that is to say, when the crops stand high; and though I once, at Panaga, on November 6, 1877, in about three hours, bagged twenty-five couple on paddy-land, still it was the only occasion I am able to record; and then, I believe, their presence was due to the paddy being scattered about in patches and much mixed up with reeds and coarse herbage.

Their favourite ground is where the jungle has been burned, and the vegetation, just beginning to spring up, shows in green shoots above the blackened soil. Another sure finding-

place is rough land, with bushes, small pools of water, and moist places scattered here and there ; but everywhere it will be found that during the intense heat of the day the Snipe avoid the open country, and seek shelter from the sun under thick bushes, or in the shade of high jungle. They then lie very close, and when flushed rise with a listless flight, not unfrequently settling again after flying eighty or a hundred yards ; but of course this is not the case in districts where they are much shot at and disturbed.

Though undoubtedly, as a rule, the Malay Snipe are not so wild nor so active on the wing as is the European species, still they afford excellent sport, and are by no means easy to shoot, particularly during the early morning, when, revived by the cool night air, they dart and twist along at a great pace ; also among bushes it requires very quick and straight shooting to make any thing of a bag.

As soon as the sun gets low they leave the covert and scatter themselves all over the country in search of food ; often on moonlight nights, when out in the jungle after pig, on crossing open pieces of ground where, during the day, not a bird could be found, I have heard Snipe rise, squeaking on all sides. One most keen sportsman of my acquaintance sallied forth on one of these very bright nights ; but, though the Snipe swarmed, he returned without having done more than frighten them,—not to be wondered at, considering how deceptive is the light of even the most brilliant tropical moon.

During droughts, when the ground is parched and cracked by the heat, the Snipes probe the buffalo-dung, perforating the heaps with thousands of small holes in their search after the worms which collect beneath.

I think that there can be little doubt that Province Wellesley, opposite the island of Penang, is by far the best Snipe-ground in the peninsula, probably owing to its being extremely flat, well watered, cleared of jungle, and perhaps to its being very near the limit of the migration south. To a very great extent it is covered with paddy-fields ; and on the rough uncultivated land bordering these the Snipe are extremely plentiful, enormous numbers often being shot in a day. One

morning early in November 1877 I bagged thirty-five couple by midday, and had quite as good sport on other occasions ; but during the season of 1879, which was an exceptionally good one, the birds simply swarming, far larger bags were made, an officer of my regiment having bagged fifty-six couple to his own gun on one day, and fifty-four on another. But this represents good shooting ; for it must not be imagined that the birds can be knocked down with a stick. Far from it, any thing over twenty couple means really straight shooting and hard work, as the walking is bad and the heat intense.

A good retriever is very useful ; but few dogs can stand the sun for any length of time. I used to keep mine closely clipped, except his head and a broad stripe down his back, which proved a great protection to his spine ; but in spite of all precautions, after a time, he got altogether out of condition. Without a dog birds are often lost, particularly on bushy ground, though the Malay boys, sharp little urchins, with more intelligence than clothes, who follow and carry one's cartridges, are generally very good at marking down the dead and wounded ; still a dog is preferable to the best of human retrievers.

Near Taiping, in the native state of Larut, I was once one of a party who attempted to shoot Snipe from elephants ; but I cannot advise any one to go and do likewise, at least if their dinner depends on what they kill. It happened thus. We had been all day in the jungle after a rogue elephant, which had done considerable mischief ; but he proved too much for us, and got safely away to the hills without giving any one the slightest chance of a shot, though at one time we were close to him. In the afternoon, on our way home, we had to pass near a celebrated Snipe-ground of considerable extent, swampy, and much overgrown with low bushes. " Let's try and shoot some Snipe from our elephants' backs ! " exclaimed one of our number. The novelty of the thing pleased all ; so off we started ; and a queer sight it was. Five elephants advanced in line, about a hundred yards apart, each carrying two guns ; while in the intervals, but a little in the rear, came several Sikhs of the military police of the district, fine

tall fellows in scarlet turbans. These followed us, nominally to pick up the spoil ; but, unless it takes five men to carry one Snipe, their labours were light. The Snipe were very plentiful, and for half an hour there was a tremendous banging ; but I need hardly say that the result was almost nil. Personally I expended quite thirty or forty cartridges for two Snipe and a green Pigeon ; all together I do not believe the ten of us averaged a bird apiece. But it was not to be wondered at ; for as “scaipe ! scaipe !” resounded and up went one’s gun, the elephant would make a tremendous plunge, and one’s shot went anywhere but towards the object aimed at ; often, I expect, much nearer the head of our mahout, or some of our Sikh followers, than was at all pleasant for them. I know it would have taken a good deal to induce me to change places with the mahout, perched as he was on the neck of the elephant, with my companion and myself slung in baskets on either side of the great lumbering brute, and firing away as hard as we could. As we sat sideways in a small cane basket, with our legs dangling over the side, straight shooting was almost an impossibility ; for, to say nothing of the jolting of our animal, I, on the off-side, could fire only at birds rising to my left front, and then in a very cramped position ; and the man on the near side had similar difficulties to contend with. Between these two firing-points squatted the unfortunate mahout : he never made any remark, except to his charge ; but I expect he offered up a prayer of thanksgiving to Mahomet when the whole performance was over and he found his head still on his shoulders.

RHYNCHÆA BENGALENSIS (Linn.).

The Painted Snipe, as it is called, though not really belonging to the true Snipes, is a bird frequently met with by the sportsman in Malayana.

The Painted Snipe *may* be a resident and breed in the Malay peninsula, as is the case in India, though my experience inclines me to think it migratory. In any case, if not a true migrant, it certainly moves about the country, only

appearing in certain districts at particular seasons. I never heard of it nesting in the peninsula, and never even saw it except during the north-east monsoon, when it is fairly plentiful, frequenting the same ground as the common Pintail. I have shot Painted Snipes in the north of Perak during the months of January, February, and March, and found them in considerable numbers further south during October.

Out of a bag of twenty couple of Snipe shot in province Wellesley on November 9, more than half were of the Painted species. They seem to collect in small parties; for when one is flushed two or three more are generally to be found somewhere near; but they rise with a heavy Owl-like flap, as a rule settling again within forty or fifty yards. Thus offering an easy mark, and being moreover poor eating, they are scarcely worth shooting.

The chief characteristics of the Painted Snipe are the beautiful ocellated plumage and the Curlew-like bill, curved downwards at the tip, also shorter than that of the common Snipe. The female, with the handsome chestnut throat, is larger and more brightly-coloured than the male.

GALLINAGO SCOLOPACINA, Bp.

Compared with the Pintail species, the common European Snipe is rare in the Malay States.

LIMOSA ÆGOCEPHALA (Linn.).

Personally I did not meet with this Godwit; but Mr. Davison showed me a specimen caught with birdlime, at the same time as two Whimbrel, on the rocks off Changhie, on the north coast of Singapore.

NUMENIUS ARQUATA (Linn.). The Curlew.

Plentiful along the coasts during the north-east monsoon. I shot a few off Changhie and among the islands in the Johore Straits, but found them just as well able to take care of themselves, and just as hard to get at, as in cooler climes.

Referring to a visit I made during November to Pulo Nongsa, a small island off the south coast of Singapore, in my note-book is:—

“The tide being very low, a broad belt of coral-reef sur-

rounded the island, affording feeding-grounds to hundreds of shore-birds of all kinds ; so we landed, or rather waded ashore, in hopes of getting at the Curlew and Plover, of which we saw a great many ; but, as usual, the former were exceedingly wary, and, without giving us the ghost of a chance, made off to a distant sandbank, loudly uttering their shrill cries, as if to deride the unsuccessful sportsman and warn all other birds of his approach."

NUMENIUS PHÆOPUS (Linn.). The Whimbrel.

Flocks of Whimbrel frequent the coasts during the north-east monsoon. In my notes I find :—

"Singapore, 26th November, 1879. The other day, while shooting Pigeons on Pulo Battam, we put up a large flock of Whimbrel from the belt of mangroves bordering the shore, but did not get a chance at them ; but next day Mr. D—— bagged eight in two shots."

TRINGA MINUTA, Leisl. The Little Stint.

I shot one of these Stints on Pulo Battam, near Singapore, on 25th November 1879 ; it was a male in winter plumage, length about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; head and the upper parts whitish brown, the feathers dark-shafted ; the two central tail-feathers dark brown, the others dusky, all narrowly edged with white ; the underparts white, dusky on the breast ; bill at front $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$.

TOTANUS GLAREOLA (Linn.). The Spotted Sandpiper.

This Sandpiper is by no means a rare bird ; I shot several in Perak and in Singapore. A female, killed at Kota Lama, Perak, on 19th April 1877, measured 9 inches, tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$, beak at front $1\frac{1}{4}$; legs dull green ; irides dark brown ; head, upper parts, and the wings dull brown, spotted with grey ; a dusky streak passes from the base of the upper mandible to the eye ; supercilium and underparts white, dusky on the breast and much streaked with brown ; the upper tail-coverts pure white ; tail barred with dark brown. A specimen shot in Singapore during November was less distinctly spotted than the above.

In my notes I find :—

“Singapore, 18th November, 1879. This afternoon, while Snipe-shooting in the Mount-Echo valley, close behind our barracks, I came on a large flock of Spotted Sandpipers (*T. glareola*) feeding in the swampy fields, which are awful walking, letting one through at every step over one’s knees into soft filth. The Sandpipers were rather wild, rising with shrill cries as soon as I got within forty or fifty yards, but settling again after flying round and round for a few minutes. Feeding with them were a great many Yellow Wagtails (*Budytes taivanus*); and I got several specimens of both them and the Sandpipers at one shot.”

TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCOS (Linn.).

The common Sandpiper is plentiful in Singapore and the neighbouring isles; during November 1879 I found great numbers of them on the shores of Pulo Nongsa and Pulo Battam, and on many occasions saw them settle on the fishing-stakes, which stand five or six feet above the surface of the water. In China I once saw a Sandpiper dive and swim under water with wonderful ease. I find the following notes, made at the time, in my journal :—

“6th October, 1878, Kowloon, near Hong Kong. Towards evening we left the hills and returned to our boat, near which, on the sands, we shot a few Waders. One of these, a Common Sandpiper (*T. hypoleucos*), fell wounded into a brook; and my dog ran to retrieve it; but just as he was going to pick it up, it dived like a Duck and swam *under* water a distance of over twenty yards. The stream was of no width, and the water as clear as crystal; and standing within a couple of paces, I most distinctly saw the bird propelling itself with its wings as it swam beneath the surface of the water.”

{To be continued.}